

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 16468/PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US98/04684	International filing date (day/month/year) 13 MARCH 1998	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 13 MARCH 1997
Applicant WAVECREST CORPORATION		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).
2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).
3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
 - ☐ filed with the international application.
 - ☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application.
 - ☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ transcribed by this Authority.
4. With regard to the title, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - ☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
 - ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - ☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:
 - Figure No. _____ ☐ as suggested by the applicant.
 - ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.
 - ☐ None of the figures

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

NEW ABSTRACT

A linear ramp generating and control circuit 10 finding particular applicability in a time interval measurement system. The linear ramp circuit includes a hold capacitor (58) which may be linearly discharged during one operating mode of the circuit by coupling a constant current source(26) to the capacitor (58). The voltage on the hold capacitor (58) is linearly discharged away from a baseline voltage level to a data voltage level which is subsequently passed to an analog-to-digital converter. The hold capacitor voltage is returned to the baseline voltage level during a recovery mode of circuit operation by a recovery or a recharge network (28). The recharge network (28) may include an active feedback circuit which implements an approximately second order voltage response to the hold capacitor (58) during the recovery mode of operation. The circuit may also include a composite amplifier (124) for buffering the hold capacitor voltage level to a circuit output during a hold mode of circuit operation. The effect of this invention is that the errors such as a drift, signal noise and baseline voltage instability can be minimized.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/04684

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : G04F 8/00, G01D 3/00; G04F 7/00

US CL : 368/118, 121; 365/569; 377/20

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 368/13, 118, 120, 121; 365/569; 377/20

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,301,360 A (BLAIR) 17 November 1981 (17.11.81), entire document.	1-21
A	US 4,504,155 A (RUGGIERI) 12 March 1985 (12.03.85), entire document.	1-21
A	US 4,908,784 A (BOX et al) 13 March 1990 (13.03.90), entire document.	1-21
A	US 4,982,350 A (PERNA et al) 01 January 1991 (01.01.91), entire document.	1-21

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*G* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 DECEMBER 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

15 JAN 1999

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